



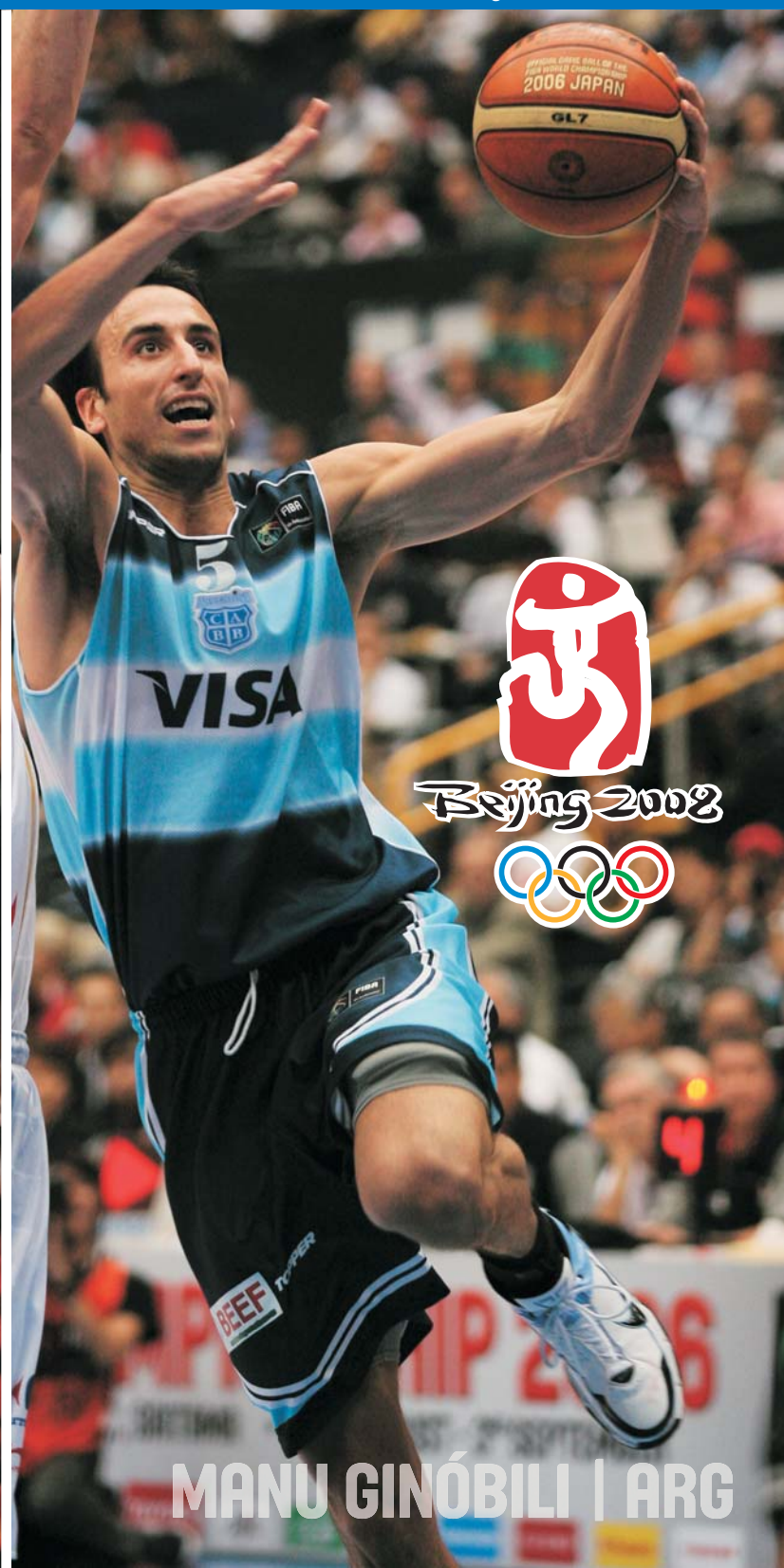
# FASTBREAK DIGITAL

August 15-30, 2008



# THE BEST IN CHINA.

KOBE BRYANT | USA



MANU GINÓBILI | ARG



 A photograph of LeBron James in a white U.S.A. jersey with the number 6, performing a dunk. He is in mid-air, holding the basketball with both hands above the hoop. A defender in a black jersey with the name ANDERSON and number 4 is visible in the foreground, reaching up. The background shows a large crowd of spectators in a stadium.

# JUST ONE GOAL: GOLD

There is just one thing more sure than Capitol Hill is located in Washington, D.C. and that the world's most famous building, The Empire State is located in New York and that is: U.S.A. wants to redeem itself at the international basketball courts.



Ever since their much-battled Gold Medal at the 2000 Olympic Games in Sydney, Australia, every International outing has met with disaster. They have recruited their best to defend and reestablish their honor but with no success; it was just not enough.

Now, on the other hand, they have managed to put together a team from another dimension. Lead on by Paul Williams and Jason Kidd, the very best of the stars and bars basketball: Kobe Bryant, LeBron James, Dwyane Wade y Carmelo Anthony...Enough to tremble in fear. No arguments either on the paint, Dwight Howard's physical prowess and the skill of Chris Bosh are enough to put the fear of God in anyone. All in all, this is a team to be, at the very least, weary off. One must also have very present that this is a team that has a lot of hunger to return to the medals podium, for the gold at that. Actually, any other result would really be a complete disaster that will, doubtlessly, make tears fall freely on any and all of the NBA.

The United States of North America has been at the Winners podium of the Olympic Games since 1936, with a single pass in 1980 because of the Olympic boycott implemented by the U.S. on the Moscow Olympic Committee. Even so, they have amassed a total of 9 Gold, 1 Silver (1972) and 2 Bronze (1988 y 2004) Medals.

Kobe is the international star of the Olympic Games, not only because he was chosen by the NBA to be the season's MVP, 30 years old and at the height of his career, nor because he led his team, the L.A. Lakers to an unexpected final series, but losing against the Boston Celtics, but because he, Bryant, is also a prodigious player, virtually unstoppable, fast, difficult to trap and very athletic. His jump shot and his accuracy for the long range shots is astounding, which all in all, makes him a danger every time he decides to attack the basket. Bryant has long desired

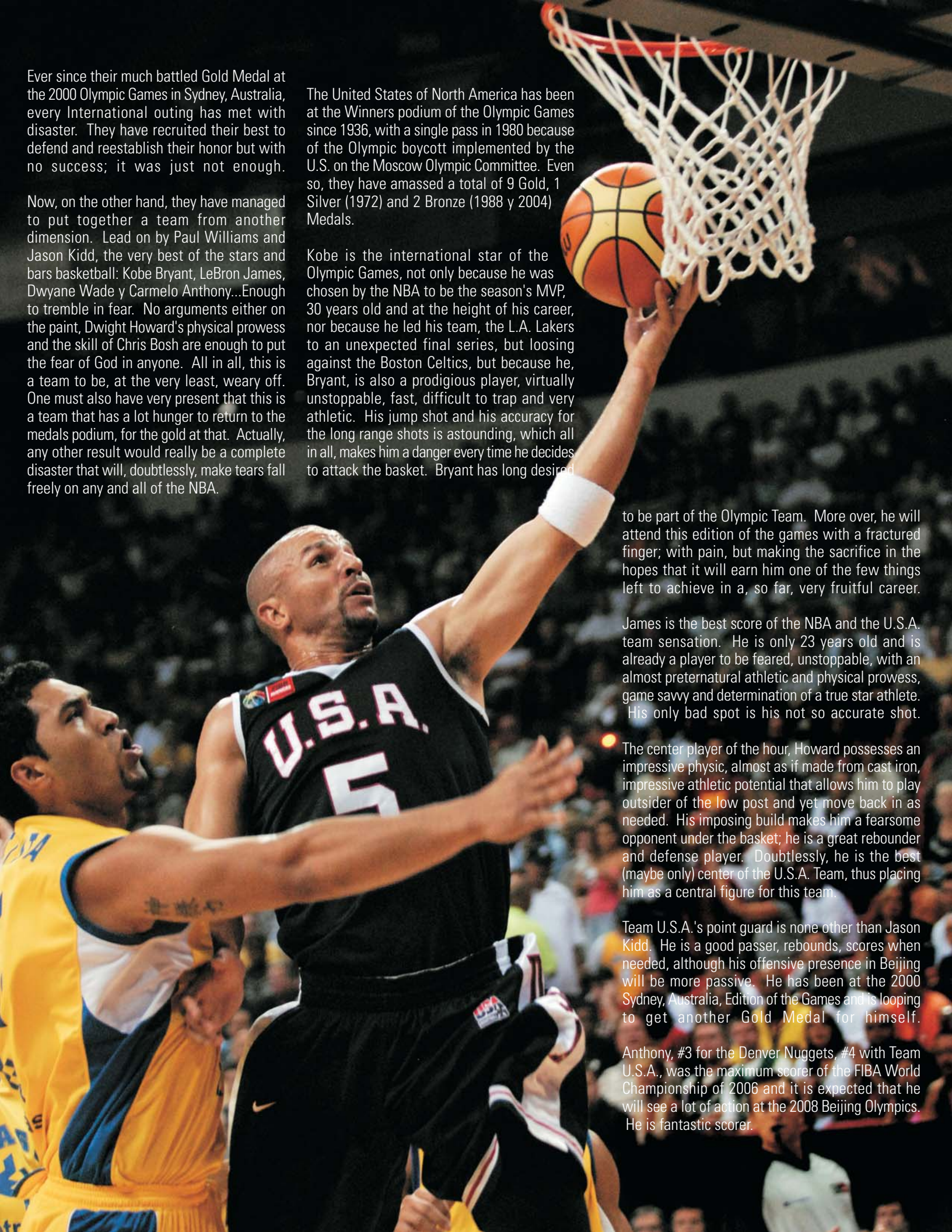
to be part of the Olympic Team. More over, he will attend this edition of the games with a fractured finger; with pain, but making the sacrifice in the hopes that it will earn him one of the few things left to achieve in a, so far, very fruitful career.

James is the best score of the NBA and the U.S.A. team sensation. He is only 23 years old and is already a player to be feared, unstoppable, with an almost preternatural athletic and physical prowess, game savvy and determination of a true star athlete. His only bad spot is his not so accurate shot.

The center player of the hour, Howard possesses an impressive physic, almost as if made from cast iron, impressive athletic potential that allows him to play outside of the low post and yet move back in as needed. His imposing build makes him a fearsome opponent under the basket; he is a great rebounder and defense player. Doubtlessly, he is the best (maybe only) center of the U.S.A. Team, thus placing him as a central figure for this team.

Team U.S.A.'s point guard is none other than Jason Kidd. He is a good passer, rebounds, scores when needed, although his offensive presence in Beijing will be more passive. He has been at the 2000 Sydney, Australia, Edition of the Games and is looking to get another Gold Medal for himself.

Anthony, #3 for the Denver Nuggets, #4 with Team U.S.A., was the maximum scorer of the FIBA World Championship of 2006 and it is expected that he will see a lot of action at the 2008 Beijing Olympics. He is a fantastic scorer.







# TOUGH CHALLENGE UP AHEAD

The current Olympic Champions, Argentina, certainly face a difficult job: successfully defend their championship or, at the very least, return home with an Olympic Medal.







A great competition notwithstanding, the challenge is made the more difficult due in part to the team's loss of guard Pepe Sánchez and forward Walter Herrmann, since the gap that these two leave is not going to be easy to fill considering the available candidates are far and between in this new generation of players. Not to mention that the team is showing signs of age.

Argentina, definitely, has dropped in bench quality. Yet, their luminaries (Ginóbili, Scola, Nocioni...) are aging like a good wine, gaining character and depth, no to mention their hunger to win yet another title of this magnitude. All in all, Argentina is still a contender that few, if any, could hope to dismiss lightly.

On the other hand, we must not forget that they fell, in 2006, against Spain in the semifinals due to a triple turnover at the last second. Moreover, if we let us analyze their recent presentations, in preparation to the upcoming Olympic Games, it is easy to see that they still have a way to go to get to the top of their game. Yet, again, this is a team of great players, with experience and adaptability which may yet prove to warm up to the level of the competition and make this thing happen for them. There is no doubt that their commitment to the competition is complete.

'Manudona' is already a legend. He was Argentina's Captain in their

historic 2004 Olympic Gold Medal win. Then went on to become the NBA star and legend he is today. He has already won three league championships with his current team, the San Antonio Spurs, most of the time as their sixth man. He is well rounded player; he has the skills, prone to bursts of activity, athletic, a good shot and a better driver...yet his most important aspect is his knowledge of the game. He can read the court like a book, finding the open spaces, the right options. To top this, his ball handling is impressive to say the least, helping him drive toward the basket with almost unstoppable might. Moreover, his defense is of the best the NBA has, making him the leader his team mates really need.

Scola, on the other hand, is an extraordinary player due to his sporting maturity. After his awesome NBA season debut with the Houston Rockets this past year few could argue that his undoubtedly one of the best players under the basket. He has an unerring scoring instinct, graceful foot play and offensive skills that are just too good to be true. What he lacks in athletic and defensive prowess, he certainly makes up with his commitment and enthusiasm.

Andrés Nocioni has an immense physical potential and is a great shooter. He plays every single minute he is in court with the same intensity, with the same commitment, which is to say the least, outstanding.



# ROSTERS



# Beijing 2008



## GERMANY

#	PLAYER	POS	HEIGHT	YEAR	TEAM (COUNTRY)
4	Tim Ohlbrecht	C	210cm	1988	Brose Bamberg (Germany)
5	ShiliS Zwiener	SG	201cm	1985	ALBA Berlin (Germany)
6	Sven Schultze	F	208cm	1978	Snaidero Udine (Italy)
7	Robert Garrett	SG	193cm	1977	Brose Bamberg (Germany)
8	Konrad Wysocki	F	202cm	1982	Frankfurt Skyliners (Germany)
9	Steffen Hamann	PG	186cm	1981	ALBA Berlin (Germany)
10	Demond Greene	SG	186cm	1979	Brose Bamberg (Germany)
11	Sascal Roller	PG	180cm	1976	Frankfurt Skyliners (Germany)
12	Chris Kaman	C	213cm	1982	Los Angeles CliSSers (NBA)
13	Satrck Femerling	C	215cm	1975	ALBA Berlin (Germany)
14	Dirk Nowitzki	F	213cm	1978	Dallas Mavericks (NBA)
15	Jan-Hendrik Jagla	F	212cm	1981	DKV Joventut (ESP)



## ANGOLA

#	PLAYER	POS	HEIGHT	YEAR	TEAM (COUNTRY)
4	Olimpio Cipriano	SG	192cm	1982	Primer de Agosto (Angola)
5	Armando Costa	PG	191cm	1983	Primer de Agosto (Angola)
6	Carlos Morais	SG	190cm	1985	Petro Atlético (Angola)
7	Milton Barros	PG	184cm	1984	Petro Atlético (Angola)
8	Luis Costa	SG	193cm	1978	Petro Atlético (Angola)
9	Vladimir Geronimo	F	193cm	1978	Primer de Agosto (Angola)
10	Joaquim Gomes	C	203cm	1980	Primer de Agosto (Angola)
11	Felizardo Ambrioso	F	201cm	1987	Primer de Agosto (Angola)
12	Abdel Moussa Boukar	C	204cm	1980	Primer de Agosto (Angola)
13	Carlos Almeida	F	192cm	1976	Primer de Agosto (Angola)
14	Paulo Leonel	F	198cm	1986	Petro Atletico (Angola)
15	Eduardo Mingas	F	201cm	1979	Primer de Agosto (Angola)



## ARGENTINA

#	PLAYER	POS	HEIGHT	YEAR	TEAM (COUNTRY)
4	Luis Scola	F	204cm	1980	Houston Rockets (NBA)
5	Emanuel Ginóbili	SG	196cm	1977	San Antonio Spurs (NBA)
6	Román González	C	211cm	1978	Peñarol Mar de Plata (Argentina)
7	Fabrizio Oberto	C	208cm	1975	San Antonio Spurs (NBA)
8	Pablo Prigioni	PG	186cm	1977	Tau Cerámica (ESP)
9	Antonio Porta	PG	188cm	1983	Spartak St. Petersburgo (Rusia)
10	Carlos Delfino	F	200cm	1982	Khimki (Rusia)
11	Paolo Quinteros	SG	188cm	1979	CAI Zaragoza (ESP)
12	Leo Gutiérrez	F	201cm	1978	Atenas de Córdoba (Argentina)
13	Andrés Nocioni	F	201cm	1979	Chicago Bulls (NBA)
14	Juan P. Gutiérrez	C	205cm	1983	CB Granada (ESP)
15	Fede Kammerichs	F	206cm	1980	Regatas de Corrientes (Argentina)



## AUSTRALIA

#	PLAYER	POS	HEIGHT	YEAR	TEAM (COUNTRY)
4	Chris Anstey	C	213cm	1975	Melbourne Tigers (Australia)
5	Patrick Mills	PG	181cm	1988	St. Mary's (NCAA)
6	Andrew Bogut	F	213cm	1984	Milwaukee Bucks (NBA)
7	Joe Ingles	F	203cm	1987	South Dragons (Australia)
8	Brad Newley	SG	198cm	1985	Panellinos (Grecia)
9	C.J. Bruton	PG	188cm	1975	New Zealand Breakers (NZ)
10	David Barlow	F	205cm	1983	Melbourne Tigers (Australia)
11	Mark Worthington	F	202cm	1983	South Dragons (Australia)
12	Glen Saville	F	197cm	1976	Wollongong Hawks (Australia)
13	David Andersen	F	212cm	1980	FC Barcelona (ACB-ESP)
14	Matt Nielsen	F	209cm	1978	Lietuvos Rytas (Lituania)
15	Shawn Redhage	C	203cm	1981	Criollos de Caguas (Puerto Rico)



## CROATIA

#	PLAYER	POS	HEIGHT	YEAR	TEAM (COUNTRY)
4	Roko-Leni Ukc	PG	195cm	1984	Toronto Raptors (NBA-CAN)
5	Davor Kus	SG	191cm	1978	Unicaja (ACB-ESP)
6	Marko Popovic	SG	185cm	1982	Unics Kazan (Russia)
7	Marin Rozic	F	201cm	1983	Cibona Zagreb (Croatia)
8	Nikola Prkacin	C	208cm	1975	Cibona Zagreb (Croatia)
9	Marko Tomas	F	201cm	1985	Real Madrid (ESP)
10	Zoran Planinic	PG	198cm	1982	CSKA Moscú (Russia)
11	Sandro Nicevic	C	211cm	1976	Benetton Treviso (Italy)
12	Damjan Rudez	F	207cm	1986	Olimpija Liubliana (Eslovenia)
13	Marko Banic	F	204cm	1984	iurbentia Bilbao Basket (ESP)
14	Kresimir Loncar	F	210cm	1983	Unics Kazan (Russia)
15	Stanko Barac	C	217cm	1986	Tau Cerámica (ESP)



## CHINA

#	PLAYER	POS	HEIGHT	YEAR	TEAM (COUNTRY)
5	Wei Liu	PG	190cm	1980	Shanghai Sharks (China)
7	Shipeng Wang	SG	197cm	1983	Guangdong (China)
8	Fangyu Zhu	F	200cm	1983	Guangdong (China)
9	Yue Sun	SG	206cm	1985	Beijing Aoshen (USA)
10	Nan Li	SG	198cm	1976	Bayi Army (China)
11	Yi Jianlian	F	212cm	1987	New Jersey Nets (NBA)
13	Ming Yao	C	226cm	1980	Houston Rockets (NBA)
14	Zhizhi Wang	F	214cm	1979	Bayi Army (China)
15	Feng Du	F	203cm	1981	Guangdong (China)
16	Jianghua Chen	PG	185cm	1989	Guangdong (China)
17	Qinpeng Zhang	PG	190cm	1985	Liaoning Hunters (China)
19	Lei Wang	PG	199cm	1986	Bayi Army (China)

# ROSTERS



# Beijing 2008



**SPAIN**

#	PLAYER	POS	HEIGHT	YEAR	TEAM (COUNTRY)
4	Pau Gasol	C	215cm	1980	Los Angeles Lakers (NBA)
5	Rudy Fernández	SG	195cm	1985	Portland Trail Blazers (NBA)
6	Ricky Rubio	PG	190cm	1990	DKV Joventut (ESP)
7	Juan Carlos Navarro	SG	192cm	1980	FC Barcelona (ESP)
8	José Manuel Calderón	PG	191cm	1981	Toronto Raptors (NBA)
9	Felipe Reyes	C	206cm	1980	Real Madrid (ESP)
10	Carlos Jiménez	F	204cm	1976	Unicaja (ESP)
11	Raül López	PG	182cm	1980	Real Madrid (ESP)
12	Berni Rodríguez	SG	197cm	1980	Unicaja (ESP)
13	Marc Gasol	C	215cm	1985	Memphis Grizzlies (NBA)
14	Alex Mumbrú	F	202cm	1979	Real Madrid (ESP)
15	Jorge Garbajosa	F	204cm	1977	Khimki (Russia)



**USA**

#	PLAYER	POS	HEIGHT	YEAR	TEAM (COUNTRY)
4	Carlos Boozer	C	205cm	1981	Utah Jazz (NBA)
5	Jason Kidd	PG	192cm	1973	Dallas Mavericks (NBA)
6	LeBron James	F	202cm	1984	Cleveland Cavaliers (NBA)
7	Deron Williams	PG	189cm	1984	Utah Jazz (NBA)
8	Michael Redd	SG	197cm	1979	Milwaukee Bucks (NBA)
9	Dwyane Wade	SG	194cm	1982	Miami Heat (NBA)
10	Kobe Bryant	SG	198cm	1978	Los Angeles Lakers (NBA)
11	Dwight Howard	C	211cm	1985	Orlando Magic (NBA)
12	Chris Bosh	C	208cm	1984	Toronto Raptors (NBA)
13	Chris Paul	PG	183cm	1985	New Orleans Hornets (NBA)
14	Tayshaun Prince	F	206cm	1980	Detroit Pistons (NBA)
15	Carmelo Anthony	F	203cm	1984	Denver Nuggets (NBA)



**GREECE**

#	PLAYER	POS	HEIGHT	YEAR	TEAM (COUNTRY)
4	Theodoros Papaloukas	PG	200cm	1977	Olympiacos (Greece)
5	Ioannis Bouroussis	C	211cm	1983	Olympiacos (Greece)
6	Nikos Zisis	PG	197cm	1983	CSKA Moscú (Russia)
7	Vassilis Spanoulis	SG	192cm	1982	Panathinaikos (Greece)
8	Panagiotis Vassilopoulos	F	203cm	1984	Olympiacos (Greece)
9	Antonis Fotsis	F	208cm	1981	Panathinaikos (Greece)
10	Giorgos Printezis	F	206cm	1985	Olympiacos (Greece)
11	Andreas Glyniadakis	C	215cm	1981	Maroussi (Greece)
12	Kostas Tsartsaris	C	208cm	1979	Panathinaikos (GRE)
13	Dimitris Diamantidis	PG	198cm	1980	Panathinaikos (Greece)
14	Sofoklis Schortsianitis	P	206cm	1985	Olympiacos (Greece)
15	Michalis Pelekanos	SG	197cm	1981	Olympiacos (Greece)



**IRAN**

#	PLAYER	POS	HEIGHT	YEAR	TEAM (COUNTRY)
4	Aren Davoudi	PG	180cm	1986	Zob Ahan Esfahan (Iran)
5	Amir Amini	F	190cm	1984	Kaveh Tehran (Iran)
6	Javad Davari	SG	185cm	1983	Petrochimi Imam Harbour (Iran)
7	Mahdi Kamrani	PG	181cm	1982	Mahram Tehran (Iran)
8	M. Reza Akbari	F	197cm	1986	Zob Ahan Esfahan (Iran)
9	Iman Zandi	F	185cm	1981	BEEM (Iran)
10	Hamed Afagh	SG	190cm	1983	Saba Battery (Iran)
11	Hamed Sohrabnejad	C	202cm	1983	Petrochimi Imam Harbour (Iran)
12	Oshin Sahakian	F	200cm	1986	Zob Ahan Esfahan (Iran)
14	Samad Nikkah Bahrami	F	195cm	1983	Mahram Tehran (Iran)
15	Hamed Ehadadi	C	218cm	1985	Saba Battery (Iran)



**LITHUANIA**

#	PLAYER	POS	HEIGHT	YEAR	TEAM (COUNTRY)
4	Rimantas Kaukenas	SG	194cm	1977	Montepaschi Siena (Italy)
5	Mindaugas Lukauskis	SG	198cm	1979	Lietuvos Rytas (Lithuania)
6	Jonas Maciulis	F	198cm	1985	Zalgiris Kaunas (Lithuania)
7	Darius Lavrinovic	C	212cm	1979	Dynamo Moscú (Russia)
8	Ramunas Siskauskas	SG	198cm	1978	CSKA Moscú (Russia)
9	Marius Prekevicius	PG	195cm	1985	Lietuvos Rytas (Lithuania)
10	Simas Jasaitis	F	201cm	1982	DKV Joventut (ESP)
11	Linas Kleiza	F	203cm	1985	Denver Nuggets (NBA)
12	Ksystof Lavrinovic	F	209cm	1979	Montepaschi Siena (Italy)
13	Sarunas Jasikevicius	PG	192cm	1976	Panathinaikos (Greece)
14	Marijonas Petravicius	C	207cm	1979	Lietuvos Rytas (Lithuania)
15	Robertas Javtokas	C	211cm	1980	Dynamo Moscú (Russia)



**RUSSIA**

#	PLAYER	POS	HEIGHT	YEAR	TEAM (COUNTRY)
5	John R. Holden	PG	185cm	1976	CSKA Moscú (Russia)
6	Sergey Bykov	PG	190cm	1983	Dynamo Moscú (Russia)
7	Andrei Kirilenko	F	205cm	1981	Utah Jazz (NBA)
8	Nikita Morgunov	C	211cm	1975	Lokomotiv Rostov (Russia)
9	Petr Samoylenko	PG	186cm	1977	Dynamo Moscú (Russia)
10	Viktor Khryapa	F	204cm	1982	CSKA Moscú (Russia)
11	Zhakar Pashutin	F	195cm	1974	Spartak St. Petersburgo (Russia)
12	Sergey Monya	A	204cm	1983	Dynamo Moscú (Russia)
14	Alexey Savrasenko	C	215cm	1979	CSKA Moscú (Russia)
15	Viktor Keirou	F	200cm	1974	CSKA Moscú (Russia)
17	Vitaly Fridzon	F	195cm	1985	Khimki (Russia)
20	Andrey Vorontsevich	C	204cm	1979	CSKA Moscú (Russia)
24	Alexander Kaun	C	211cm	1985	CSKA Moscú (Russia)



## SIMPLE & DIRECT

The competition system is for the 2008 Olympic Games at Beijing, China, is a simple and direct one: The first round put the 12 teams in two groups of six, Group A and Group B. As if it were a small league or tournament, they will go toe to toe against each other; the best four teams in each Group will move on to the second round.

The second round, the quarterfinals, will pit the best eight against each other following this simple format:

A2 vs. B3  
B1 vs. A4  
B2 vs. A3  
A1 vs. B4

Whoever loses in these crosses will go home; their participation in the games will be over.

The semifinals, the third round, will pit the winner of the first quarter finals game against the winner of the second quarterfinals game. The other game of the semifinals will be played between the other two winners of the quarterfinal games.

Those two teams that lose at this stage will move on to play for the Bronze Medal. The winners will then play for the Gold Medal at the final game of the Tournament.

The first three places will be decided in the last games of the competition with the loser of the Bronze Medal dropping to the 4th overall place. Places 5th to 8th will be determined based on the victory balance from the first round. In the case of a draw, the place will go to the best qualified for the second round (with the following caveat: a fourth place in the preliminary round will always be placed after a third placed team, even from the other group.). In the event that there still a draw, then the place will be determined by score averaging of the preliminary round.

The teams that won the 5th place in their groups will vie for the ninth and tenth positions. The team with the best balance will get the ninth position. If there is a draw, then it will be decided by score averaging.

Places 11 and 12 will be determined as for places 9 and 10, but will also include the teams that won the last places in the preliminary round.



## OLYMPICS REFEREES

The International Basketball Federation (FIBA) announced the names of the 30 referees who have been nominated for the Basketball Tournaments of the Games of the XXIX Olympiad in Beijing, People's Republic of China.

The Olympic Basketball Tournaments will be played in the Wukesong Indoor Stadium, in Beijing, China.

The Men's competition will take place from 10th to 24th August 2008, while the Women's tournament is scheduled from 9th to 23rd August 2008.

The 30 FIBA referees who have been nominated for the Beijing 2008 Olympic Games:

Mohammad AL-AMIRI (KUW), Juan Carlos ARTEAGA (ESP), Heros AVANESSIAN (IRI), Michael AYLEN (AUS), Ilija BELOSEVIC (SRB), Susan Elaine BLAUCH (USA), Mr. Romualdas BRAZAUSKAS (LTU), Mr. Scott Jason BUTLER (AUS), José Anibal CARRIÓN (PUR), Elena CHERNOVA (RUS), Abdellilah CHLIF (MAR), Fátima Aparecida DA SILVA (BRA), Pablo Alberto ESTÉVEZ (ARG), Fabio FACCHINI (ITA), Yuji HIRAHARA (JPN), Chantal JULIEN (FRA), Carl JUNGEBRAND (FIN), Luigi LAMONICA (ITA), Lijun MA (CHN), Cristiano Jesus MARANHO (BRA), Reynaldo Antonio MERCEDES SÁNCHEZ (DOM), Abreu MUHIMUA (MOZ), Nikolaos PITSILKAS (GRE), Eddie Fernanço RUSH (USA), Stephen SEIBEL (CAN), Petr SUDEK (SVK), Jasmina TATIC (SRB), Dawna TOWNSEND (CAN), Maogong YANG (CHN), Nikolaos ZAVLANOS (GRE).

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# SCHEDULE

# Beijing 2008

## GAME DAY 1 - 10TH OF AUGUST

03.00h	Russia	-	Iran	Group A
05.15h	Germany	-	Angola	Group B
08.30h	Spain	-	Greece	Group B
10.45h	Lithuania	-	Argentina	Group A
14.00h	Australia	-	Croatia	Group A
16.15h	USA	-	China	Group B

## GAME DAY 2 - 12TH OF AUGUST

03.00h	Iran	-	Lituania	Grupo A
05.15h	Croatia	-	Russia	Grupo A
08.30h	Greece	-	Germany	Grupo B
10.45h	China	-	Spain	Grupo B
14.00h	Angola	-	USA	Grupo B
16.15h	Argentina	-	Australia	Grupo A

## GAME DAY 3 - 14TH OF AUGUST

03.00h	Germany	-	Spain	Group B
05.15h	Australia	-	Iran	Group A
08.30h	Angola	-	China	Group B
10.45h	Lithuania	-	Russia	Group A
14.00h	USA	-	Greece	Group B
16.15h	Argentina	-	Croatia	Group A

## GAME DAY 4 - 16TH OF AUGUST

03.00h	Greece	-	Angola	Grupo B
05.15h	Russia	-	Australia	Grupo A
08.30h	Croatia	-	Lituania	Grupo A
10.45h	Iran	-	Argentina	Grupo A
14.00h	China	-	Germany	Grupo B
16.15h	Spain	-	USA	Grupo B

## GAME DAYS 5 - 16TH OF AUGUST

03.00h	Iran	-	Croatia	Group A
05.15h	Australia	-	Lithuania	Group A
08.30h	Greece	-	China	Group B
10.45h	Angola	-	Spain	Group B
14.00h	USA	-	Germany	Group B
16.15h	Argentina	-	Russia	Group A

## QUARTER FINALS- 20 TH OF AUGUST

s.c.	B2	-	A3	P65
s.c.	A1	-	B4	P66
s.c.	A2	-	B3	P67
s.c.	B1	-	A4	P68

## SEMIFINALS- 22 TH OF AUGUST

s.c.	Winner 65	-	Winner 66	P69
s.c.	Winner 67	-	Winner 68	P70

## FINA LGAME DAY- 24TH OF AUGUST

06.30h	Looser 69	-	Looser 70	3º y 4º P.
08.30h	Winner 69	-	Winner 70	Final





# AUSTRALIA & RUSSIA WITH OLYMPICS OPPORTUNITIES

The women's tournament for this 2008 Olympic Games at Beijing, China, seem to have three definite Medal contenders: United States, Russia and Australia, unlike the men's competition that seems to have, this time, a more level competition all around, thus making it almost impossible to predict who will end up with an Olympic Medal.

The current reigning champion, United States, arrives at Beijing with its sight set on the Gold Medal, which would be their consecutive fourth if they prevail. They have put together their best team possible and truly seem to be an authentic "Dream Team". What could prove to be the factor that turns this "dream" into a nightmare? Russia and Australia.

These two also arrived at China's capital with their best teams. They are equal in height and talent, leaving just one thing open that may prove to be the differentiating chip of this tournament: their benches. If their bench players prove to have the depth necessary, this could really spell an end

to the reigning epoch for the United States.

There are many who could prove to be the surprise of the tournament. Not the least is Brazil and China, yet we cannot dismiss the European teams that have previewed so far a very level game; a scenario that could define their place in the tournament based on just any one small detail.

The U.S.A. team is made up of a real constellation of stars, lead by none other than the legendary Lisa Leslie and the rookie Candace Parker, and a media phenomenon in the United States.

Player by player, is unquestionable the strength and quality of their team and how their coach has, all throughout last winter, made small but yet necessary and important teaks to the team in order to help them work as a group. Yet we must also note that they reach the Olympics after been defeated by Russia at the semi-finals of the World Championship.



# Beijing 2008



**FASTBREAK** DIGITAL 03

Without a true point guard (clearly the reason for their many turnovers and erratic counter attacks), this team relies more on their superior advantage under the basket. Their true hope lies with Lisa Leslie, Candace Parker, Delisha Milton Jones, Tamika Catchings, Tina Thompson and the rookie Silvia Fowles.

Yet, if Team U.S.A. has its sights set on the Gold Medal, so does Australia and Russia. The Opals are the current reigning world Champions, not to mention that the best player in the world, Lauren Jackson, plays under the Australian Flag.

Their squad teems with resources, two of the best being their low post players (although it is expected that Panny Taylor will play small forward

for some time, giving them a strong triad under the basket). Moreover, their veteran point guard, Tully Bevilacqua, will be leading the Opals into the fray, while Kristi Harrower and Belinda Snell will have, as their task, the offensive.

Russia is also full to the brim with good resources, they also have a good chance to capture the Gold. First, Maria Stepanova, European basketball queen supreme, indisputable, outside offensive with Oxana Rahmatulina, the versatile Tatiana Shchegoleva and the pride and courage of Ilona Korstin.

Moreover, Osipova, Abrosimova and Vodopyanova put their team at the same physical and athletic level as their American counterparts yet fail to fully convince everyone on their intensity and concentration.





# OLYMPICS GAMES HIGHLIGHTS

EDITION	GOLD	SILVER	BRONCE
Berlin '36	U.S.A.	Canada	Mexico
Londres '48	U.S.A.	France	Brazil
Helsinki '52	U.S.A.	U.R.S.S.	Uruguay
Melbourne '56	U.S.A.	U.R.S.S.	Uruguay
Roma '60	U.S.A.	U.R.S.S.	Brazil
Tokio '64	U.S.A.	U.R.S.S.	Brazil
Mexico '68	U.S.A.	Yugoslavia	U. R. S. S.
Munich '72	U.R.S.S.	U.S.A.	Cuba
Montreal '76	U.S.A.	Yugoslavia	U. R. S. S.
Mosccow '80	Yugoslavia	Italy	U. R. S. S.
Los Angeles '84	U.S.A.	Spain	Yugoslavia
Seoul '88	U.R.S.S.	Yugoslavia	U.S.A.
Barcelona '92	U.S.A.	Croatia	Lithuania
Atlanta '96	U.S.A.	Yugoslavia	Lithuania
Sydney '00	U.S.A.	France	Lithuania
Atenas '04	Argentina	Italy	U.S.A.



## OLYMPIC MEDAL DISTRIBUTION-BASKETBALL

COUNTRY	GOLD	SILVER	BRONCE	TOTAL
U.S.A.	12	1	2	15
Soviet Union	2	4	3	9
Yugoslavia	1	4	1	6
Argentina	1	-	-	1
France	-	2	-	2
Italy	-	2	-	2
Canada	-	1	-	1
Spain	-	1	-	1
Croatia	-	1	-	1
Brazil	-	-	3	3
Lithuania	-	-	3	3
Uruguay	-	-	2	2
Mexico	-	-	1	1
Cuba	-	-	1	1

